

Committee on Ways and Means

S. 3525, the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006

Short Summary of House-Senate Agreement

- (1) Reauthorizes the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program through fiscal year (FY) 2011 at current levels of \$345 million per year in mandatory funds and \$200 million per year in discretionary funds. The agreement results in no additional costs compared to current law, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).
- (2) Targets \$40 million in PSSF funds – the additional funds provided and paid for by the *Deficit Reduction Act of 2005* (P.L. 109-171) – as described in the table below. The prior House version (H.R. 5640) dedicated these funds to improved monitoring of foster children, while the Senate version (S. 3525) dedicated funds for increased efforts to combat methamphetamine abuse.

	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011
Increased Efforts to Combat Substance Abuse	0	40	35	30	20	20
Improved Monitoring	40	0	5	10	20	20

- The legislation directs a total of \$145 million for increased efforts to combat substance abuse, including methamphetamine abuse.
 - The legislation directs a total of \$95 million for improved monitoring of children.
 - The legislation requires States to document monthly caseworker visits for at least 90 percent of foster children by FY 2012. States that do not achieve this minimum standard must increase their share of spending under the Child Welfare Services (CWS) program by up to 5 percentage points (from the current 25 percent to as much as 30 percent of program spending) or risk losing Federal CWS funds.
- (3) Extends the Court Improvement Program through FY 2011 at its current funding level.
 - (4) Increases the PSSF tribal set-aside to 3 percent for both mandatory (currently 1 percent) and discretionary (currently 2 percent) funds and permits tribal consortia to apply for grants.
 - (5) Makes a series of technical and conforming changes to the CWS program to update current State plan requirements, cap administrative spending at 10 percent of total expenditures, and promote spending for prevention services by limiting Federal CWS expenditures for other activities to no more than FY 2005 levels.
 - (6) Reauthorizes the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program and provides for a limited number of vouchers to be available to expand utilization of mentoring services. The agreement ensures no less than \$25 million per year must be available for mentoring grants to organizations, in addition to any spending on the voucher program.